

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

This grass is relished by sheep and goats. (30-8-1976) Rudranath, 4000 m., District
Specimen examined: Joshi, D. N., 87 Chamoli (North Garhwal), U.P.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
GOVT. (POST GRADUATE) COLLEGE,
GOPESHWAR, CHAMOLI 246 401,
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31. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *CLEOME FELINA* L. f.
(CLEOMACEAE) IN MAHARASHTRA

(With six text-figures)

Hooker f. & Thoms. (1872) and Gamble (1916) have recorded the occurrence of *Cleome felina* L. f. from Deccan and Carnatic areas in South India. This species has not been recorded earlier by Cooke (1901-08) or Haines (1916) from areas that fall under Maharashtra State. A critical study of this species collected from Chandrapur district reveals that *Cleome felina* L. f. is often confused with *Cleome chelidonii* L. f. especially in the vegetative condition, though both are easily distinguishable in flowering or fruiting stage. The former is characterised by slender woody root system, densely clothed with bristly hairs all over, small pink flowers and short compressed striate capsules while the latter has got robust fleshy root system, is less hairy, has comparatively large rosy flowers and long slender terete, often constricted, capsules.

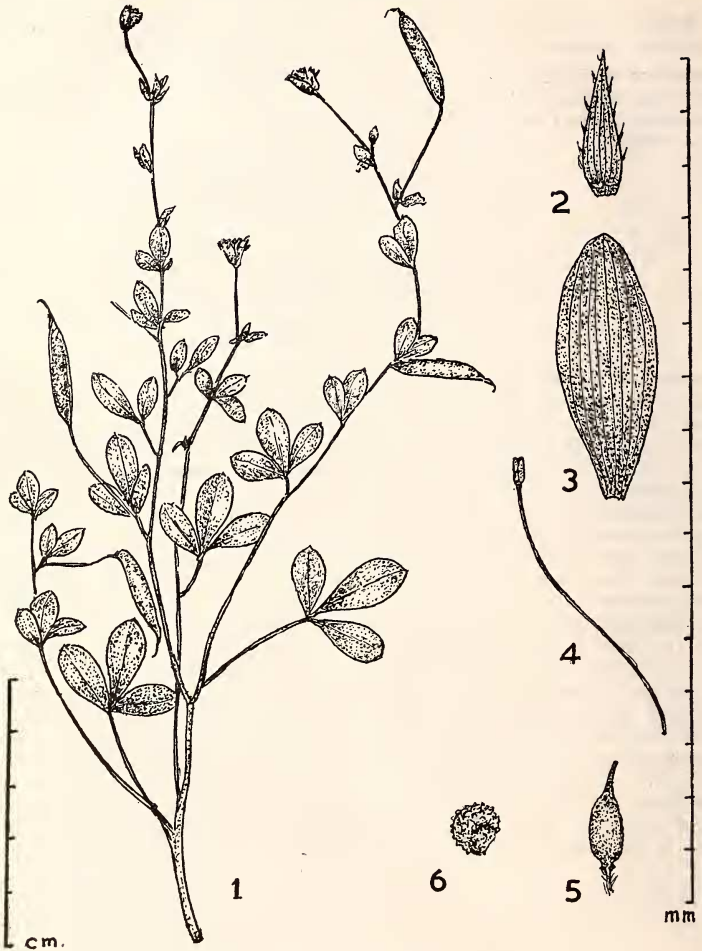
The earlier collections (R. K. Bhide s.n., Rolla S. Rao 85280; K. V. Billore 116179) housed in the herbarium of Western Circle

(BSI) identified as *Cleome felina* L. f. are in vegetative condition and on scrutiny they are referable to *Cleome chelidonii* L. f. only. The plant collected from Manikgarh hills, Lakkadkote area, Chandrapur district (Malhotra 140127) is *Cleome felina* L. f. and is a new record for Maharashtra State extending its distribution further north.

In view of its rarity and absence of any known published illustrations for the plant, a line drawing is provided along with a brief description.

***Cleome felina* L. f.** Suppl. 300. 1781; Hk. f. & Thoms. in Fl. Brit. India 1: 170. 1872; Gamble Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 41 (29): 1915.

An appressedly hairy herb. Leaves usually trifoliate, obovate. Flowers small 0.5 cm, corolla pink, bristly, hairy on the back. Stamens usually 50. Capsules 2-3 cm equal or slightly longer than the pedicel, compressed striate. Seeds reniform, yellowish brown, spiny tubercled.



Figs. 1-6. *Cleome felina* Linn. f. 1. A twig; 2. Sepal (ventral view); 3. Petal (ventral view); 4. Stamen; 5. Gynoecium; 6. Seed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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S. K. MALHOTRA
SIRASALA MOORTHY

32. *ARTHRAOXON MEEBOLDII* STAPF—A GRASS NEW TO
KASHMIR

(With a text-figure)

Arthraxon Beauv. (Poaceae) is a genus of 20 species (Airy Shaw 1966) native to old world tropics. Some species are introduced or adventive in the temperate regions of the world. From the Kashmir Himalayas several species of *Arthraxon* Beauv. have been reported (Bor 1960, Stewart 1972). During studies on the alpine fodder grasses of Kashmir we collected several specimens of *Arthraxon* Beauv. which on critical scrutiny turned out to be *Arthraxon meeboldii* Stapf. The literature revealed that this taxon has not been reported so far from this area.

The present paper records for the first time the occurrence of this grass from the Kashmir valley. The note is supplemented by short description and illustration. The voucher specimens have been deposited in the Herbarium, Kashmir University.

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SRINAGAR-190 006,
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Arthraxon meeboldii Stapf in Kew Bull. 449 (1908)

Annual. Culms ascending to prostrate; leaf margins ciliated with penicillate bulbous base hairs; Racemes 2-3 paniculate, densely pubescent with silky silvery hairs; spikelets binate; lower glume of sessile spikelet with a double row of muricate teeth; upper glume setosely acuminate, keeled upwards, complicate; lemma with a dorsal basal awn; palea small; anthers 3; styles 2, free; Lower glume of pedicelled spikelet rigidly keeled.

Flowering and Fruiting: August to November.

Specimens collected: Dachigam; in the shade of forest trees, HT: 902; Phalgam; moist places; HT: 746; Harwan; on the bund of water reservoir; HT: 840; Telbal; on the bank of Telbal nallah; HT: 650.

H. THAKUR
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